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LETTER

FROM THE

Commission of the General Assembly,

TO THE

Presbytery of Hamilton,

WITH Scotland, Church of General Assembly, Commission of

The Presbytery's Answer.

Edinburgh Decemb: 6th. 1706.

R. D. B.

The General Assembly of this Church, having appointed us to take care, that it suffer no Prejudice, thro' neglect of due Application to the Honourable Estates of Parliament, or any other Judicatory, concerned in the Management of Publick Affairs. We have in this Juncture, wherein a Treaty of Union with the Neighbouring Kingdom, is under Deliberation, before the Representatives of our Nation, Endeavoured, and are still Endeavouring to Extent our Conscience, in doing what we Judge incumbent upon us, for Securing the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline, Government, Rights and Privileges of this Church, as now by the great Goodness of GOD, the same are Established among us: And being informed of Disorders and Tumults, in some parts of the Country, which the Enemies of our present Happy Establishment may be ready to Improve, tho' without ground, to the Disadvantage and Reproach of this Church. We do look upon it as our Duty, to Recommend to all our Brethren, that as they have in their Stations access, they do Discouragement and Discourage all Irregularities and Tumults, that tend to Disturb the Government of our Gracious Sovereign the Queen, to whom we are in Gratitude, as well as Duty, under the highest Obligations, being in the kind Providence of GOD, we by Her Good and Wise Management, enjoy so many Advantages; and upon whose Preservation, our Peace, and the Security of All that's dear to us, do under GOD much Depend. This in Name, and by the Order of the Commission of the General Assembly of this National Church, is Subscribed by

R. D. B.

For the Right Reverend, the
Moderator and remanent
Members of the Presbytery
of Hamilton.

Your Affectionate Brother and Servant in
the LORD.

WILLIAM CARSTAIRS Moderator
pro tempore

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Bethuel 17 Decemb. 1700

R. D. B.

Y OUR Letter signed by the R. Mr. Castairs Moderator pro tempore, we received this Day, being our last Meeting after its Date of the 6th Instant; wherein there is mention of your being informed of Disorders and Tumults in some Parts of the Country, which you recommend unto us to discountenance and discourage as we have Access.

We know there have been many Reports spread Abroad of Tumults and Disorders, not only in *Glasgow*, which is too true, but in other Places within the Shire of *Lanerk*; which, as to the Bounds of our Presbytery, are grossly false: And we have reason to believe them to be so likewise, as to the rest of the Shire. We have heard also of some calumnious Stories industriously disseminated concerning some of our Number, with respect to these pretended Disorders, which are not only contrary to Truth, but to common Sense. We wish the Forgers and Spreaders may be forgiven. They act in this neither the part of good Christians, nor of good Subjects.

As to the Disposition of the People, the plain Truth is, That they are really most desirous from the Union; and many have expressed themselves broadly enough against it, as what they fear may prove an irremediable Evil, if it should be concluded, wishing that some Stop might be put to it. And we have not been wanting, as there was Occasion, to Advise and Exhort the People to Calmness and Regularity, and to refrain from any undue Keenness might be in their words. But we must say, That it is utterly false and malicious to suggest, that there hath been the least Tumult or irregular Practice among them, since this Union came in Question; far less any Shadow or Appearance of any Undutiful or Disloyal Thought of Her Majesty. Yea, there has not been so much as the least Motion towards their accustomed ordinary Rendezvous, warranted by Law, since the publishing of a Proclamation and Act, forbidding the same. It is true, That some of those Rash Youths who broke out from *Glasgow*, passed thro' our Bounds, but they were not allowed to make any Stay, nor received the least Encouragement at any Hand, for ought we know: So that we can well assure the R. Commission, there is as much Peace and Quiet within the whole Bounds of this Presbytery, as is any Place of the Kingdom.

We have heard with much Satisfaction, in the Zeal which the R. Commission hath shewed by their Addresses (mentioned in your Letter) for the Interests of the Church at this Time, when they are in so Eminent Hazard. And we have testified our Concurrence therewith by our Address to the Parliament: But we are still of Opinion, That the pressing Necessity of the present Juncture, and the manifest Impossibility (in the Event of such an Union, as is moulded in the Treaty) of securing this Church in any of Her Precious Concerns, now Established by the Laws and Constitution of our own Government and Kingdom, doth not only require the Continuance of Affiduous Application to the Right Honourable Estates of Parliament; but likewise, that the Commission, in Name of this Church, testify against the Concluding of any Union with England, upon the Foot of this Treaty, till the General Assembly of this National Church, according to Her undoubted Right, as we have shewed in our Address be Called and Allowed to consider of Solid and Essential Securities for the Church in such an Exigence. This we humbly think, the Trust reposed in the Commission, and Faithfulness to the Church of Scotland, both in the present and succeeding Generations doth undeniably Demand. Thus heartily Recommending you to Divine Conduct and Assistance. We rest

R. D. B.

COLLECTED MATERIAL
For the Right Reverend, the Mo-
derator, and remanent Mem-
bers of the Commission of the
General Assembly at Edin-
burgh.



Your most Affectionate Brethren, and
Humble Servants in the Lord,
The Ministers of the Presbytery of
Hamilton. Subscribed in their
Name, and by their Order, by

ALEX: FINDLATER Moderator.